

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 26, 2021, 7:30 a.m.
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees:	Carol Humphrey Dave Cox	Mike LaPlante Ron Hodge	Peggy Cuvala Richard Schumacker
Staff:	Chuck Lloyd Dr. Bill Wheeler	Lori Minier Rachel Ewert	Rebecca Plante Sunnie Jaynes
Other:	Phil Lampert, County Commissioner		

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Humphrey opened the meeting at 7:43 a.m.
2. **Regular Session** – Ewert stated that the ER is very grateful for the new trauma stretchers. Ewert added that they had a patient present with a broken hip, and with the new stretchers, they didn't have to move the patient at all as the Xray can slide under the patient. The stretchers will also be much more useful for traumas and MIs. The new defibrillators have a lot of new functions; they help document codes and are also better on times and medications. The Nurses are so excited to have these!
3. **Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by Hodge, second by Cuvala, to approve the meeting minutes from July 29, 2021 and August 3, 2021. The motion passed.
4. **Open Forum/Visitors**
5. **Board Committee Reports**
 - 5.1. **Performance Improvement Committee** – Schumacker stated that PI met on August 10th and gave an update on a couple PI projects. Humphrey attended the meeting as well, and she feels like the meetings are very valuable. Radiology has seen a 49% increase in mammograms since they started their PI project.
 - 5.2. **Finance Committee** – LaPlante stated that the finance report was given in the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting.
 - 5.2.1. **July Financials** – A **motion** made by LaPlante, second by Schumacker, to approve the July Financials. The motion passed.
 - 5.3. **Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy** – Cox stated that there are no policies from Administration at this time. Plante handed out the organizational chart just as an FYI for Board members at the request of Humphrey.
 - 5.4. **Medical Staff Committee** – Hodge stated that he did not attend the last Med Staff meeting, but Cuvala did. Cuvala stated that the Medical Staff approved the annual review of their Bylaws.

Also at the meeting, Ewert discussed struggles with transfers and the providers had discussions regarding encouraging people to get vaccinated. The Board interviewed Dr. Burns after the meeting.

6. **Medical Staff** – Dr. Wheeler stated that the M&M Committee met and had a very good, informative/educational meeting. Risk Manager Sunnie Jaynes did a great job facilitating the meeting. We also had a pre-medical student shadow at BCH for a few weeks and have a resident coming in September.

6.1. *Reappointments*

- 6.1.1. *Jordan Day, PA-C* – Dr. Wheeler stated that the Medical Staff approved Jordan Day’s reappointment at their August meeting. A **motion** made by Cuvala, second by Hodge, to approve PA-C Jordan Day’s reappointment to the Medical Staff. The motion passed.
- 6.1.2. *Craig Burns, MD* – Dr. Wheeler stated that the Medical Staff approved Dr. Burns’ reappointment at their August meeting. A **motion** made by Cuvala, second by Hodge, to approved Dr. Craig Burns’ reappointment to the Medical Staff. The motion passed.

7. **Contracts**

- 7.1. **Henry Shein Penta 60 Hematology Analyzer** – Minier stated that the hematology analyzer in the lab is very outdated and needs replaced. The Penta 60 hematology analyzer is a one-time purchase price of \$22,775 (includes warranty and 4 years of service). This will be an ongoing cost savings. A **motion** made by LaPlante, second by Cuvala, to approve the purchase of the Henry Shein Penta 60 Hematology Analyzer. The motion passed.

8. **Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had conversations regarding the following items: ultrasound services, chemotherapy, transfer issues, oxygen shortages at nearby facilities, and COVID-19 vaccinations. Lloyd stated that we are predicting that North Idaho is about one week out from instituting crisis standard of care. Our Nurse staffing situation is bad; we are so short staffed. Our COVID positivity rate has been about 23-24% a day. Lengthy discussion regarding the pandemic situation, to include staffing, surgery cases, patient census, and community communications. *Cox exited at 8:05 a.m. Wheeler exited 8:12 a.m.*

9. **Follow-Up Items**

- 9.1. **Employee Health Plan** – Lloyd stated that our Risk Manager has started researching employee health and will be working on this as a PI project.
- 9.2. **“Grow Your Own” RN Discussion** – Ewert stated that she has been working on a proposal for a CNA to RN and LPN to RN program to include a monthly stipend and education reimbursement. The idea is to grow healthcare providers from within our community as we believe retention is stronger for those who already live in the area. We would like to promote education within our community, and a lot of individuals have families and cannot afford to go to school to better their skills and education. The proposal would include a contractual agreement for the individuals to work for us for (*at least*) a certain time period. By implementing this program, it could eventually decrease our use of travelers. NIC wants to partner with CAHs in North Idaho to provide us with spots in the Nursing program so we can grow our own Nurses. The proposal will include a financial breakdown and overview of the application process. Ewert would like to propose selecting two individuals for this program; one LPN to RN (about 1-year) and one CNA

to RN (just over 2 years). Idaho has an RN apprenticeship program, so after the 1st semester of RN school, they can use the skills they've been proven competent in and can do these under the guidance of the RN working with them. NIC received a grant from the government to invest into the rural health nursing program (\$200,000). Discussion regarding the HOSA class at the high school. Ewert will present the proposal next month.

10. Communications

- 10.1. IHA Updates** – Cuvala stated that the Fall IHA conference has been cancelled. The last Board meeting was a Zoom meeting. IHA updates and COVID updates are emailed out weekly.
- 10.2. BetterCARE Update** – Humphrey stated that BetterCARE is starting to gear up for the 12 days of Christmas.
- 10.3. Fall Board Meeting Date** – Administration is proposing the following for Fall Board meeting dates: October Meeting: Wednesday, October 27th. November Meeting: Wednesday, November 24th. The Board agreed with these date changes.

11. Executive Session

At 8:25 a.m., a **motion** made by Hodge, second by Schumacker, to adjourn into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Personnel and Idaho Code 74-206(1)(j) Provider Contract & Other Contract Manners. Roll Call Vote: All ayes. The motion passed.

Present at this time: Humphrey, LaPlante, Cuvala, Schumacker, Hodge, Lloyd, Minier, Ewert, Plante and Lampert.

*Ewert, Minier and Plante exited at 8:25 a.m.
Jaynes entered at 8:25 a.m. Jaynes exited at 8:45 a.m.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Rebecca Plante, Board Secretary

Carol Humphrey, Board Chairman